

Marvin Doschadis Interview

1. Where was your hometown?

Beardsley, MN

1a. Your age when you enrolled?

18, I'm now 84.

1. What did you do before going to the CCC Camp?

Farm Boy

2. Why did you enroll in the CCC program?

Just out from high schools and not many jobs were available and I was short on money. So a friend of mine and myself enrolled in the CCC.

3. What CCC camps were you assigned to?

#711 – Ely, MN, 30 miles from Canadian border. I was there for 6 months (fall of 1937 till spring of 1938), and then I came home for the spring and helped with the farmwork. Then I enrolled again with my friend in #706 in Lanesboro, MN during the fall of 1938- fall of 1940.

4. Were you ever transferred? Why?

No.

5. Tell me about your first days at the camp, i.e., clothing, equipment, toiletries issued, etc.

Nothing different than done in civilian life. Got in line and were issued personal items and toiletries then we got a comforter. We got a footlocker to keep personal items in; we had a chance to buy the type we wanted to. Things had to be folded just right.

6. What personal items did you have when you arrived?

I didn't take a thing. I didn't even have a coat.

7. What were you not allowed to keep?

None

8. How were you billeted (assigned lodging)?

Selected at random, no particular pattern. 60 in each barracks, 250 in camp

10a. Describe the type of shelter you slept in?

Wood framed barracks at both locations.

10b. Who supplied your bedding and sleepwear?

CCC-government

9. Who were your bunkmates?

Howard Layden, E.J. Duffy whom I met in Rockchester. Many went back to school.

10. How did you guys get along?

Well, very well, no problems.

11. Tell me about the food in the mess hall.

Fine, liked Spam.

12. Who did the cooking?

People who had some interest in making a future out of cooking (CCC guys). They were the head chefs. Kp duty was violators who were put to work. Cooking was considered a fine job to have.

13. How were your holiday meals?

Very good, here is Thanksgiving Day 1939 menu for company # 706. The items were: fruit cocktail, celery hearts, wheat jerkins, young roast turkey, snowflake potatoes, scalloped corn, oyster dressing, cranberry sauce, gravy, combination salad, rolls, pumpkin pie, whip cream, coffee, mixed candy, mixed fruit and nuts, and cigarettes. On the inside of the menu they have the roster that list all the army personnel, commander, and the members and leaders. (Picture of Crew)

14. When was payday?

30th of month

15. How much were you paid?

\$25/month went home, \$5 for personal spending money. Leader received \$45/mo, and assistant leader received \$36/mo. Senior leader got \$60/mo.

16. How did you spend your pay?

On Saturday night we would head up to town and spent money on beer and toiletries. Most of the time was spent hanging out at the camp.

17. What were your days off, and how did you spend them?

Weekends were always off. Weekdays we hung out and played pool. We had baseball and basketball teams, boxing matches (he has the hand wrappings from his last boxing matches). All sport teams were really good. We had a rec. hall to play pool at. You could take some schooling if you wanted to; I learned how to type while in the CCC.

18. How was the Sabbath observed in camp?

Chapel –attend if wanted to.

19. Tell me about he sports activities in the camp.

Boxing, basketball, baseball.

20. What part did you take in them?

Boxing I was good, was a light heavyweight. I was a pitcher in baseball, guard in basketball, played in the bowling team, camp paper.

21. Tell me about any personal conflicts you had, and how you dealt with them?

None.

22. When problems took place in the CCC camp amongst the men, how were they resolved?

Very seldom did we have any problems.

23. What types of discipline were used to punish rule breakers?

KP duty, stay at camp. Reported to officer.

24. I understand there were some educational/trade opportunities available. Did you take advantage of any of these? How?

Typing classes, editor for typing paper.

25. Who were your teachers?

Men

26. Where were classes held?

At camp

27. What benefits did you get out of these classes at camp or after leaving camp?

Learned to type, build a newspaper.

28. What were some of the main projects your camp was involved in?

Ely-timber stand improvement. Crews of twenty guys and go into the woods. Some marked trees, some cut wood, some stacked and burn-4" diameter stuff. We burned trees no larger, I was the hatchet man. I cut down the smaller trees. At lansboro we did soil conservation work, surveying crews.

29. What were some of your duties?

Drew map on table with soil survey crew. At TSI I was the Hatchet man who cut small branches.

30. What type of skills did you receive?

I learned to map and use an axe with the timber stand improvement.

31. Who trained you (LEMs)?

Not much, learn on your own. They tested you to determine your skills.

32. Who were your leaders?

Arp, senior leader at Lanesboro.

33. How did you get along with them?

Good

34. How did you get your work assignments each day?

Superintendent determined what we would be doing. Sometimes it would take several days to do a farm. You would go back each day to finish work on the farm.

35. What type of equipment did you use? How was it issued to you?

Axes, hatchet, stadia rod, set up the table, and help surveying.

36. Who were some of your fellow workers, and how did you get along with them?

Don't remember.

37. What contact, if any, have you had with any of your fellow CCC workers?

Just one-Jack Granes in MN carecenter.

38. How did the city kids and the country kids get along at camp?

Good

39. Were there any minority groups, i.e. African Americans, Hispanic, Native American, or others, working at the camp?

No, all white.

40. How were they treated by their superiors?

N/A

41. How were they treated by their fellow workers?

N/A

42. Tell me about the specific skills you learned in camp.

N/A

43. How did these benefit you after leaving the camp?

Survey work, typing, boxing skills (30 matches) three-minute rounds, never became competitive.

44. Were there any injuries at work?

Some minor injuries

45. How were these injuries taken care of?

Camp doctor.

46. Were you ever injured? How?

Yes, I hit myself in knee with hatchet.

47. What diseases occurred in camp, and how were these treated?

None.

48. Tell me about any insect & rodent problems?

No, misquotes in some places.

49. What work, if any, did you do outside the camp, or in the community during your CCC days?

None

50. Were you paid?

No

51. What contacts did you have with the outside community?

None

52. What fellowship type organizations, i.e., Masonic, Elks, Odd Fellows, did you or any of the camp workers attend at camp, or in the community?

None

53. Would you tell me about any contacts you had with females during your stay at the camp?

Went on some local dates. Local dates, may get intimate at dance.

54. Were there any problems with other young men in the local community?

No

55. How do you think the members of the CCC camp were felt about by the local community?

Didn't pay attention at the time, likely mixed emotions.

56. What is your most memorable experience at the CCC camp?

Gave the chance to go to College.

57. What was your oddest experience at the camp?

None.

58. What do you think was your biggest accomplishment at the camp?

Getting ready for college, and being promoted to senior leader.

59. How do you think your life was changed, by enrolling in the CCC?

Began his philosophy of life: Being most people are good people if you let them be. All the CCC people got along and became better man by serving in the CCC.

60. What did you do after leaving the CCC?

Coe College and then to the Navy. Attended three Colleges and University (Coe College, Cornell in New York and Colgate in New York.) Boot camp in Great Lakes in Chicago. I was a math major in college and because of that I ended in radar division. Became radar second class. May 1946 I left the Navy and finished my

college at Coe. I graduated and got married on the same day of June 1947. Then I started teaching and coaching at Newhall High School for three years (Math and History). I coached for another 7-8 years after I was done teaching. Then I got into the insurance business from which he retired. From Mt. Pleasant I moved to Woobury County to work at Woodbury County Mutual (became president) and then retired in 1990 and moved to Williamsburg.